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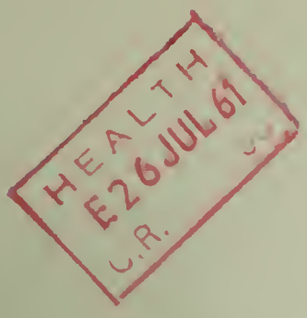

BOROUGH OF REIGATE

ANNUAL REPORT

of the

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH
T. H. Bingham, M.D., D.P.H.

Together with the

ANNUAL REPORT

of the

CHIEF PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR
G. Janes, M.R.S.H.,
M.A.P.H.I.

1960

Public Health Department,
Caberfeigh,
24 Hatchlands Road,
Redhill, Surrey.
(Telephone No. Redhill 2265/6)

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TERENCE BRAY

BOROUGH OF REIGATE

ANNUAL REPORT

of the

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

for the year 1960

To the Chairman and Members of the Public Health Committee

Madam Chairman, Miss Warren and Gentlemen,

I beg to present my Report on the public health and sanitary circumstances of the Borough of Reigate in the year 1960.

The Report is drawn up generally in accordance with the requirements of the Ministry of Health, as indicated in Circular 1/61, and contains the information requested in the Public Health Officers Regulations, 1959.

The year was generally very favourable from the public health point of view. There was no undue prevalence or severity of epidemic or other illness. In fact, the case rates for the various notifiable infectious diseases were, on the whole, among the lowest yet observed in the Borough; this was especially so as regards acute poliomyelitis, measles, bacterial food poisoning and all forms of tuberculosis. In the field of active prevention, attention is drawn to the satisfactory rates of acceptance of protective inoculation against the range of diseases for which effective immunising agents are now available.

The advance in the birth rate to 15.4 per 1,000 of the population - the highest observed since the immediate post-war years - was accompanied by a lower rate of survival of new-born infants and a small increase in the proportion registered as stillborn. The unadjusted death rate of 12.8, though higher than in 1959, is very little above the average for the preceding ten years. The rise in the death rate in 1960 was almost entirely due to higher mortality of both sexes from hypertension and coronary disease. Although there were fewer deaths from cancer and malignant disease than in either of the two preceding years, the number attributed to cancer of the lung, patricularly of males, was very much higher than usual, and represented roughly one-fourth of the total cancer deaths. Fatal accidents, in many cases involving the elderly, also made rather more than their usual contribution to the general death rate.

Brief reference is made to the routine activities of the public health services of the Borough in connection with the clearance of unfit dwellings, the measures taken to ensure a satisfactory standard of purity and quality of water, milk and food supplies, the prevention of atmospheric pollution, sanitary inspection, supervision of caravan and camping sites, duties under the Factories and Shops Acts, disinfection and disinfestation and other matters directly concerned with environmental hygiene.

I gratefully acknowledge the valuable help I have consistently had from Mr. G. Janes, the Chief Public Health Inspector, the efficient and loyal service of my staff and the assistance and close co-operation of my colleagues in other Departments of the Corporation. My sincere thanks are due also to the Chairman and Members of the Public Health Committee for the support and consideration they have very kindly extended to me throughout the year.

I am, Madam Chairman, Miss Warren and Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

T.H.BINGHAM

Medical Officer of Health.

Caberfeigh,
Redhill.

12th July, 1961.

SECTION I

STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS

Area (Land and Inland Water)	10,255 acres
Population, Census 1951	42,248
Registrar-General's estimate of resident population, mid-year, 1960	51,230
Number of inhabited houses at end of 1960 according to Rate Books	15,690
Rateable Value (1st April, 1961)	£946,050
Sum represented by a Penny Rate	£3,820

Population

The resident population of the Borough at mid-year, 1960, was estimated by the Registrar-General to be 51,230. This represents a population increment of 650, or 1.2 per cent., in the preceding twelve months, of which 133 is attributable to natural increase (i.e. the number by which the live births exceeded the total deaths) and 517 to migration into the area. The population gains under both headings, and particularly the former, are much greater than usual.

The official estimate is well below the provisional population figure of 53,710 enumerated at the recent Census. Consequently, it is probable that the various statistical rates for the year, which are calculated on the official estimate, represent a slightly greater morbidity and mortality than was, in fact, experienced.

Births

A total of 793 live births (421 male and 372 female) were assigned to the Borough in 1960. The recorded birth rate for the year was, therefore, 15.4 per 1,000 of the estimated population, which is the highest observed since 1948. When adjusted in the prescribed manner for purposes of comparison, the local birth rate is advanced to 15.6, which compares with a national rate of 17.1 in the same period.

The illegitimacy rate of 46 per 1,000 live births is somewhat above the average for the past ten years.

The advance in the birth rate in 1960 was accompanied by a rise in mortality of infants under the age of one year. The infant mortality rate of 18 per 1,000 live births is, however, appreciably lower than the corresponding rate for the country as a whole, which was 21. The proportion of infants registered as stillborn was also slightly higher than in 1959.

Deaths

A total of 660 deaths (343 of males and 317 of females) occurred amongst persons normally resident in the Borough. The death rate calculated on this total was 12.88 per 1,000 of the population, as compared with 11.58 in 1959 and an average rate of 12.65 in the preceding ten years. When adjusted for purposes of comparison the recorded rate is reduced to 10.30; the death rate for England and Wales in 1960 was 11.5.

The numbers of deaths of each sex in various age groups were as follows:-

Age group	Males	Females	Total
0 - 1 year ..	9	6	15
1 - 5 years ..	-	2	2
5 - 10 years ..	2	2	4
10 - 15 years ..	-	3	3
15 - 20 years ..	4	1	5
20 - 30 years ..	4	1	5
30 - 40 years ..	4	2	6
40 - 50 years ..	17	9	26
50 - 60 years ..	40	19	59
60 - 70 years ..	75	49	124
70 - 80 years ..	112	90	202
80 - 90 years ..	71	113	184
90 and upwards ..	5	20	25
	343	317	660

Reference has already been made to the increase in the number of infants who died before reaching the age of one year. Eight of these failed to survive for one month, including six who died during their first week. Eight of the infant deaths were attributed to congenital deformities or malformation, two to birth injury, two to prematurity and one each to pneumonia, acute septicaemia and inhalation of stomach contents. A noteworthy feature of the foregoing is the relatively small number of deaths from prematurity, which has been the principal cause of neo-natal mortality in recent years. With two exceptions, all the infant deaths occurred in hospital.

More than one-half of the total deaths from all causes were attributed to diseases of the heart and circulation, including degenerative affections of the blood vessels of the brain. This proportion is somewhat greater than usual, due to a sharp rise in the mortality of both sexes from coronary disease and hypertension.

There were fewer deaths from all forms of cancer and malignant disease than in either of the preceding two years, though there was a fairly substantial increase in the number assigned to cancer of the lungs, particularly amongst males. The mortality rate for lung cancer was 0.41 per 1,000 of the population, as compared with 0.33 in 1959 and a rate of 0.48 for England and Wales.

A total of 29 deaths was attributed to violence and accidental causes, as compared with 25 in 1959. Those resulting from injuries sustained in motor vehicle accidents included five of elderly pedestrians who were knocked down by motor cars, and three cyclists and motor-cyclists, who were involved in collisions; no car driver sustained fatal injuries. Of the 18 deaths from other accidental causes, 12 were associated with fractures following accidental falls and 2 with extensive burns from domestic heating appliances, all involving persons of very advanced age; the remaining 4 were recorded as deaths from misadventure.

Reference should be made to the very low death rate for acute and chronic infections and respiratory diseases, the reduction in mortality associated with gastric and duodenal ulceration and the absence, for the first time in five years, of mortality attributed to pregnancy and child-bearing.

The numbers of deaths ascribed to other specific causes are set out in Table III and do not indicate unusual or excessive mortality from any particular cause.

National Assistance Act, 1948 - Section 47 (As amended by the National Assistance (Amendment) Act, 1951)

It was not necessary to take action under the above-named Section for the compulsory removal to hospital or other suitable premises of persons who were not being properly cared for in their own homes. Several persons to whom the Section might apply were eventually induced to accept institutional care, or were enabled to achieve a reasonable standard of care and environmental hygiene with the assistance forthcoming from various official and voluntary domiciliary social services. Special mention should be made of the help and close co-operation of Mr. Lovelock, the Principal Divisional Welfare Officer, and of Dr. DeWitt, the Consultant Geriatrician, in dealing with these cases.

Extracts from the Vital Statistics for the year are set out in Table I and comparative statistics for the years 1934 to 1960 are shown in Table II. The number of deaths from specified causes are classified in Table III.

TABLE I

EXTRACTS FROM VITAL STATISTICS

Live Births:-					
Legitimate	Males 404	Females 352	Total 756		
Illegitimate	Males 17	Females 20	Total 37		
Birth Rate					15.4
Do. 1959					13.9
Do. for the five years 1955 to 1959					14.1
Still Births					
Legitimate	Males 6	Females 7	Total 13		
Illegitimate	Males 1	Females -	Total 1		
Rate per 1,000 total births					17.3
Do. do. 1959					16.7
Total Live and Still Births					
	Males 428	Females 379	Total 807		
Illegitimate Live Births per cent. of Total Live Births					4.6
Infant Mortality:-					
Deaths of infants under the age of one year:-					
Legitimate	Males 9	Females 6	Total 15		
Illegitimate	Males -	Females -	Total -		
Infant Death Rate:-					
All infants per 1,000 live births					18.9
Legitimate infants per 1,000 legitimate live births ..					19.8
Illegitimate infants per 1,000 illegitimate live births					Nil
Deaths of infants under the age of 4 weeks:-					
Legitimate	Males 5	Females 3	Total 8		
Illegitimate	Males -	Females -	Total -		
Neo-natal Mortality Rate per 1,000 live births					7.5
Maternal Mortality:-					
Deaths from pregnancy, childbirth and abortion ..					-
Rate per 1,000 total (live and still) births ..					Nil
Deaths (nett):-					
Males .. 343	Females .. 317	.. Total 660			
Do. 1959:-					
Males .. 257	Females .. 329	.. Total 586			
Death Rate					12.8
Do. 1959					11.5
Do. for the five years 1955 to 1959					12.1
Percentage of total deaths occurring in Public Institutions					57.4
Deaths from:-					
Cancer (all ages)					106
Measles (all ages)					-
Whooping Cough (all ages)					-
Gastro-enteritis (under 2 years of age)					1

TABLE II

SUMMARY OF VITAL STATISTICS, 1934 - 1960

Year	Estimated Population	Live Births	Birth Rate per 1,000 population (unadjusted)	Deaths	Death Rate per 1,000 population (unadjusted)	Infant Mortality Rate per 1,000 Live Births	
						Reigate	England
1934	35,400	417	12.4	409	11.5	39	59
1935	35,720	399	11.8	407	11.3	52	57
1936	36,000	456	13.2	443	12.3	36	59
1937	36,360	451	13.0	447	12.2	40	58
1938	36,630	478	13.6	415	11.3	32	53
1939	37,090	463	13.1	454	11.7	34	50
1940	41,970	447	11.1	579	14.2	34	55
1941	42,040	519	13.6	574	13.6	67	59
1942	40,060	581	16.5	496	12.3	45	49
1943	38,400	565	16.6	509	13.2	45	49
1944	36,360	593	17.9	524	14.4	41	46
1945	36,670	492	15.5	497	13.5	33	46
1946	39,690	677	18.9	493	12.4	32	43
1947	40,480	744	19.6	534	13.2	20	41
1948	41,770	611	15.6	453	10.8	28	34
1949	42,150	592	14.8	518	12.3	37	32
1950	42,030	554	13.7	564	13.4	22	30
1951	42,220	530	13.2	551	13.0	20	29
1952	42,460	599	14.4	532	12.5	21	27
1953	44,890	654	15.2	637	14.2	30	26
1954	47,610	666	14.4	572	12.0	13	25
1955	48,180	637	13.6	585	12.1	17	25
1956	48,730	663	14.3	592	12.1	7	24
1957	49,330	681	13.8	564	11.6	13	23
1958	49,760	750	15.1	655	13.2	20	22
1959	50,580	706	13.9	586	11.5	14	22
1960	51,230	793	15.4	660	12.8	18	21

TABLE III

Causes of Death in the Borough of Reigate during 1960

		M	F	Total
1.	Tuberculosis, respiratory	1	1	2
2.	Tuberculosis, other forms	-	-	-
3.	Syphilitic diseases	1	1	2
4.	Diphtheria	-	-	-
5.	Whooping Cough	-	-	-
6.	Meningococcal infections	-	-	-
7.	Acute poliomyelitis	-	-	-
8.	Measles	-	-	-
9.	Other infective and parasitic diseases	-	1	1
10.	Malignant neoplasm, stomach	5	2	7
11.	Malignant neoplasm, lung, bronchus	24	3	27
12.	Malignant neoplasm, breast	2	8	10
13.	Malignant neoplasm, uterus	-	2	2
14.	Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms	35	25	60
15.	Leukaemia, aleukaemia	-	-	-
16.	Diabetes	-	1	1
17.	Vascular lesions of nervous system	35	63	98
18.	Coronary disease, angina	73	58	131
19.	Hypertension with heart disease	4	12	16
20.	Other heart disease	51	44	95
21.	Other circulatory disease	14	9	23
22.	Influenza	3	3	6
23.	Pneumonia	12	10	22
24.	Bronchitis	17	5	22
25.	Other diseases of respiratory system	1	1	2
26.	Ulcer of stomach and duodenum	2	-	2
27.	Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea	2	1	3
28.	Nephritis and nephrosis	2	3	5
29.	Hyperplasia of prostate	1	-	1
30.	Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion	-	-	-
31.	Congenital malformations	3	4	7
32.	Other defined and ill-defined diseases	44	42	86
33.	Motor vehicle accidents	4	4	8
34.	All other accidents	6	12	18
35.	Suicide	1	2	3
36.	Homicide and operations of war	-	-	-
	Totals	343	317	660

SECTION II

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA

Water

Every dwelling-house in the Borough has a continuous and direct supply of water from the public mains, with the exception of thirty-nine cottages in Ladbroke Road, Redhill, which are supplied with mains water from an intermediate storage tank, and a bungalow in Gatton Park, which has a piped and filtered supply from a nearby spring; samples of water from the latter sources were reported to be of satisfactory bacterial quality.

The mains water is derived from deep borings in the chalk and is softened, chlorinated and de-chlorinated before distribution to consumers. Samples of the water before and after treatment are submitted at least twice weekly for bacteriological examination, under private arrangements made by the East Surrey Water Company. In addition, samples of the treated water are examined chemically and/or bacteriologically about once a week under a rota system arranged by the Medical Officers of Health of the districts supplied by the Company, thus avoiding duplication of sampling. Samples are taken in each district at stated times and copies of the Analyst's reports are circulated for the information of the other districts concerned. These reports invariably indicated that the chemical and bacterial purity of the water reached a very high standard. No action was necessary, therefore, in respect of any form of contamination.

The public supply was adequate in quantity throughout the year and was augmented for several weeks at mid-summer by distribution of water from the reserve borehole at The Clears, Reigate, which had the effect of temporarily raising the total hardness of the water by about twenty parts per million.

About 180 caravans on approved sites in the Borough are supplied with mains water by standpipes, which in most cases are within reasonable distance of the caravans. Improvement in the latter respect will follow the application of the Model Standards prescribed under the Caravan Sites and Control of Development Act, 1960.

Water from an artesian well, supplying a mineral water factory, was reported to reach a high standard of bacterial purity and to be in every respect suitable for drinking and manufacturing purposes.

Swimming Baths and Pools

Two swimming baths in the area are open to the public. Both are covered baths owned and controlled by the Corporation, and are equipped with the necessary plant for continuous filtration and chlorination. The baths are filled from the public mains and are emptied and re-filled, usually once in the season, if the chemical quality of the water tends to fall below the required standard.

In addition to the chemical tests made at least twice daily by the Baths Superintendent, samples of water from both baths were submitted to analysis at the height of the bathing season, and in each case were reported to be "of satisfactory organic quality and of the highest standard of bacterial purity".

Drainage, Sewerage and Sewage Disposal

The new drainage works carried out by the Council in 1960 included the laying of 296 lineal yards of foul sewer, mainly in connection with building development, and a total of 3,088 lineal yards of surface water sewer to improve the drainage arrangements in Colesmead, Wray Park Road and other parts of the Borough. In addition, 182 yards of foul sewer and 802 yards of surface water sewer were laid by the developers of private housing estates. Two additional humus tanks with a total capacity of 207,000 gallons were constructed at the Earlswood Sewage Disposal Works.

There was no important change in the arrangements made by the Borough Surveyor for the emptying and disposal of cesspool contents. Two cesspools were abolished when the drainage systems of the houses concerned were connected to the public sewer.

Thirty-six premises have a septic-tank/filter-bed system of sewage disposal. Five installations, draining ten of these properties, were overhauled and repaired during the year.

Closet accommodation

All dwellings in the Borough are on the water carriage system, with the exception of twelve properties on the rural outskirts of the district. The only type of apparatus available at the latter is a pail or chemical closet, with disposal of sink waste liquids to some form of cesspool or soakaway. One such property was enlarged and improved during the year and provided with a septic-tank/filter-bed system of drainage.

Rivers and Streams

The streams and surface water courses in the area are regularly inspected and all necessary action is taken to render them free from obstruction and pollution.

Public Cleansing

I am indebted to the Cleansing Superintendent for the following information relating to the arrangements for the collection and disposal of refuse:-

The outstanding feature of 1960 was the difficulty in recruiting and retaining an adequate labour force, particularly in the refuse collection section, and so maintaining the usual weekly collection of house refuse in all parts of the Borough. In consequence, the service was at times irregular, especially after holiday periods, though it was generally possible to ensure a reasonable interval between successive collections.

The removal of trade refuse from business premises was continued with the usual frequency of once, twice or three times weekly, or daily where the refuse had a high content of putrescible matter.

On the whole the conditions under which domestic and trade refuse is temporarily stored are generally satisfactory, though in some instances capable of improvement. Defective and dilapidated receptacles have been replaced, where necessary, and householders have been assisted in this respect by an arrangement under which dustbins of approved pattern are available for sale at the Cleansing Department

The separate collection of food waste from schools, institutions, cafes, hotels and private dwellings resulted in the production of roughly 750 tons of animal feeding-stuffs. The scheme for the gradual withdrawal of communal waste food bins and the substitution therefor of individual containers on free loan to householders, had to be deferred because of labour shortage.

The extraction and salvage of waste paper, bottles, textiles, metals, etc., have continued successfully in operation and produced an income of £21,028, thus making a very valuable contribution to the economical disposal of refuse collected in the Borough. The residue of the refuse, amounting to 17,554 tons, was disposed of by incineration.

The recently reconstructed incinerator units have functioned very satisfactorily, and working conditions in the screen and hopper houses have been greatly improved by the installation of the new dust extractor units.

Sanitary Inspection of the Area

A classified statement of the number of premises visited, the defects or nuisances discovered, and the action and result of action taken in respect of them will be found in the report of the Chief Public Health Inspector.

Shops

Inspections for the purposes of the Shops Act, 1950, continue to be made as and when necessary.

Camping Sites

No new licences were granted under Section 269 of the Public Health Act, 1936, in respect of caravans intended for permanent residential use. Two existing licences were renewed, as compared with two in 1959, six in 1958 and eleven in 1957. The progressive reduction in the number of individual licences granted is largely due to the present policy of the Local Planning Authority in concentrating such caravans, as far as possible, on properly organised and licensed sites.

The Corporation Caravan Site in Three Arch Road, Redhill, has accommodation for a maximum of forty caravans and is almost exclusively restricted to applicants having residential or occupational connections with the Borough. A few plots have intentionally been kept vacant and so immediately available for very urgent or special cases. In 1960 there were five new lettings and five families left the site; a total of forty-six families were in occupation at some time during the year. The site is visited at least once a week by a Public Health Inspector to ensure that it is properly conducted and that a satisfactory standard of hygiene is maintained in the ablution and sanitary blocks. The improved amenities on the site, including in 1959 the extension of the electricity supply to make current available to each caravan, appear to have resulted in less movement from the site; changes in occupation this year were very much fewer than usual.

The three privately-owned sites in the Borough continued in use during 1960 and have accommodation for a total of 148 caravans. These sites also are regularly inspected and, on the whole, are satisfactorily conducted and maintained. In March, an application for a licence was received from one of the site owners to use land adjoining his site as an extension for the accommodation of up to thirty-two large residential caravans, each to be provided with full amenities, including water supply, internal watercloset, bathroom and main drainage. Subject to special conditions applicable in this case, a licence was subsequently granted and work was proceeding on the first half of this extension at the end of the year.

A new Act - The Caravan Sites and Control of Development Act, 1960 - came into operation in August, with the two-fold object of controlling the location of sites and improving conditions thereon by requiring good standards in layout, equipment and maintenance. It is now possible in imposing conditions to have regard to other general matters, such as roads and footpaths, hard standings, fire fighting appliances, storage space, car parking facilities and recreation space. Model standards issued by the Ministry of Housing and Local Government indicate the conditions which should apply, as far as practicable, on all sites. Generally, the Act is a major step forward in the control of the caravan problem and improvement of living conditions on caravan sites.

Atmospheric Pollution (Clean Air Act, 1956)

There were two complaints of nuisance from smoke in 1960, as compared with six in the previous year. One related to premises with steam-raising boilers using oil-fired furnaces, where a blow-back had occurred during routine maintenance work, causing the emission of dark smoke at the time. Steps were taken to minimise the risk of repetition of this trouble and subsequent observations have revealed a satisfactory standard of operation. The other case arose on the unsatisfactory incineration of trade refuse from a factory, and the action taken resulted in a proper incineration process, with satisfactory results.

Eradication of Bed Bugs

The disinfestation of verminous premises is carried out by the Disinfecting Officer, under the supervision of the Chief Public Health Inspector. No case of bug infestation was reported during the year.

Factories Acts, 1937, 1948 and 1959

In accordance with the requirements of Section 128 (3) of the Factories Act, 1937, I submit the following particulars of action taken during 1960 in relation to factory premises:-

(1) Inspections

Premises	Number on Register	Number of		
		Inspections	Written Notices	Occupiers Prosecuted
(i) Factories in which Sections, 1,2,3,4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities	23	11	-	-
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority	178	101	-	-
(iii) Others	29	30	-	-
TOTALS	230	142	-	-

(2) Cases in which Defects were found

Particulars	Number of cases in which defects were found				Number of cases in which prosecutions were instituted
	Found	Remedied	Referred to H.M. Inspector	Referred by H.M. Inspector	
Want of cleanliness ...	2	2	-	-	-
Ineffective drainage of floors	1	1	-	-	-
Sanitary conveniences					
(a) insufficient ...	1	1	-	-	-
(b) unsuitable or defective	2	1	-	-	-
(c) not separate for sexes	-	-	-	-	-
Other offences (not including offences relating to Outwork)	9	8	-	-	-
TOTALS	15	13	-	-	-

(3) Out Work (Sections 110 and 111)

In compliance with the requirements of Section 110 (i) (c), notice was given by one local employer in respect of one out worker engaged on the making of wearing apparel.

Ten lists were received from other Authorities in relation to twenty-two out workers. It was found, on inspection, that the work was not in any instance being done in unwholesome premises.

SECTION III

HOUSING

Statistical particulars relating to the demolition, closure and repair of unfit houses under the Housing and Public Health Acts are now submitted quarterly to the Ministry of Housing and Local Government.

The particulars supplied under these headings in respect of the year 1960, are briefly summarised as follows:-

(a) (i) Houses demolished in Clearance Areas (Housing Act, 1957, Section 42) 25
(Cromwell Road, Redhill;
Lake Cottages, Earlswood Common, Redhill)

(ii) Families rehoused from Clearance Areas ... 15 (40 persons)
(Cromwell Road, Redhill;
Marketfield Road, Redhill;
Brighton Road, Redhill;
Lake Cottages, Earlswood Common, Redhill)

(b) Individual unfit houses dealt with (Housing Act, 1957, Sections 16 & 17) -
(i) Demolished 28
(South Side, North Street, Redhill;
40, 76 & 78, Garlands Road, Redhill;
23 - 29 & 37, Holmethorpe, Redhill;
Taisborough, London Road, Reigate)

(ii) Closed 3
(Basement Flat, 42, Doods Road, Reigate;
Stable Cottage, Hazelhurst, Nutfield Road, Redhill;
21A, Station Road, Redhill)

(iii) Families rehoused ... ... 14 (30 persons)
(Basement Flat, 42, Doods Road, Reigate;
76 & 78, Garlands Road, Redhill;
23 - 29, & 37 Holmethorpe, Redhill;
2 & 4, Rees Road, Redhill;
The Cottage, Reigate Hill, Reigate;
Stable Cottage, Hazelhurst, Nutfield Road, Redhill;
21A, Station Road, Redhill)

(c) Unfit houses made fit -

(i) Informally - by owner 50

(ii) After formal notice 1

The following information is of interest:-

(d) Number of dwelling-houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts) 270

(e) Number of dwelling-houses - included in (d) above - inspected and recorded under Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925 and 1932 56

(f) Number of dwelling houses represented as unfit and suitable for statutory action -

(i) Under Section 42, Housing Act, 1957 ... 40
(ii) Under Sections 16 & 17, Housing Act, 1957 18
(iii) Under Section 18, Housing Act, 1957 3
(iv) Local Authority owned houses certified unfit by the Medical Officer of Health 4

(g) (i) Number of dwelling-houses overcrowded at end of 1959 1
(ii) Number of new cases of overcrowding reported during 1960 ... ... Nil
(iii) Number of cases relieved during 1960 1
(iv) Number of dwelling-houses overcrowded at end of 1960 ... ... Nil

Fifty-three houses were demolished during the year under the Council's programme for the clearance of unfit houses, and three dwellings comprising parts of buildings were closed. Those demolished included twenty-five houses in Clearance Areas and twenty-eight which were represented individually as unfit and incapable of being made fit at reasonable expense. There were twenty-nine families, comprising seventy persons, rehoused from unfit properties during the year.

Five areas, comprising a total of forty dwelling-houses and situated at St. John's and Clarendon Road, Redhill and Nutley Grove and Mark Street, Reigate, were officially represented as suitable for treatment under Clearance Area procedure. The Orders in all these cases have been confirmed, in two instances following a public enquiry.

Twenty-one dwelling houses were officially represented individually as unfit for human habitation; Demolition Orders were made in fourteen cases and Closing Orders in three. The remaining four houses were deemed to be capable of being made fit at reasonable expense, but the owner wished to be relieved of responsibility for their repair and maintenance and offered them as a gift to the Council; the formalities in connection therewith were in progress at the end of the year.

Four houses in Rees Road, Redhill, in the ownership of the Corporation, were certified as unfit for human habitation, with a view to their ultimate demolition.

Attention is drawn to the absence of known cases of statutory overcrowding in the Borough at the end of the year.

The Council's Housing Manager has kindly supplied the following particulars with regard to rehousing:-

1.	Number of new dwellings completed during the year	
	Erected by Borough Council	60
	Erected by private enterprise	170
		230
2.	Number of flatlets for older people obtained from conversions	34
3.	Families rehoused from waiting list:-	
	In permanent Council houses	20
	In permanent Council flats	61
	In old people's bungalows	1
	In miscellaneous property (including old people's flatlets)	40
		122
4.	Families rehoused from Clearance Areas:-	
	In permanent Council houses	7
	In permanent Council flats	19
	In old people's bungalows	1
		27
5.	Families transferred from requisitioned property:-	
	To permanent Council houses	1
6.	Families transferred from one type of Council dwelling to another:-	109
7.	Tenants of other Local Authorities who have exchanged accommodation with tenants of Reigate Borough Council:-	7
8.	Tenants of private landlords who have exchanged accommodation with tenants of Reigate Borough Council:-	1

SECTION IV

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD

Milk Supply

In compliance with the requirements of the Milk(Special Designation) (Special Areas) (No.2) Order, 1954, made by the Minister of Food under the Food & Drugs (Milk, Dairies & Artificial Cream) Act, 1950, all milk sold by retail in the Borough must be pasteurised, sterilised or tuberculin tested.

Milk supplies are sampled frequently on the lines and for the purposes mentioned in previous reports. The laboratory findings on samples examined in 1960 are summarised in Table IV, and show that the milk on sale locally reaches a very high standard of bacterial purity.

Of 8 samples of tuberculin-tested milk and 93 samples of pasteurised milk submitted for examination, 96 passed the prescribed test for keeping quality; the test could not usefully be applied to the other 5 samples because of the high atmospheric temperature at the time of the examination. All the samples of pasteurised milk satisfied the phosphatase test, indicating that the heat treatment had been correctly and efficiently applied.

Six samples of milk submitted to biological examination were reported to be free from living organisms of tuberculosis. Freedom from infection of this nature has been one of the most conspicuous and satisfactory features of reports on milk examination in recent years and is, no doubt, an indication of the efficacy of the measures adopted to combat it.

Periodic biological testing is confined to milk that will not be subjected to heat treatment before delivery to the consumer. There are now only two local producers of tuberculin-tested milk, which is sold by retail from a dairy in the Borough.

TABLE IV

RESULTS OF BACTERIOLOGICAL EXAMINATION OF MILK

1. Tests required by Regulations governing Special Designations

No. of Samples	Methylene Blue			Phosphatase		Turbidity
	Satis-factory	Unsatis-factory	Test Void	Satis-factory	Unsatis-factory	Satis-factory
Tuberculin-Tested: 8	8	-	-	-	-	-
Tuberculin-Tested (Pasteurised): 44	42	-	2	44	-	-
Pasteurised: 49	46	-	3	49	-	-
Sterilised: 10	-	-	-	-	-	10

2. Biological Examination

No of Samples	Tubercle Bacilli +	% Tubercle Bacilli +
6	Nil	0.00

Milk (Special Designation) Regulations, 1949 & 1950

Licences, as under, for the sale of designated milk were granted to twenty-four dealers retailing milk in the area:-

	Type of Licence	Number of Licences	Number of Premises
Pasteurised	Pasteuriser's	1	1
"	Dealers	12	22
"	Supplementary	5	-
Tuberculin Tested ..	Dealer's	5	16
" " ..	Supplementary	5	-
Sterilised	Dealer's	14	19
"	Supplementary	1	-

New Regulations, the Milk (Special Designation) Regulations, 1960, relating to the licensing of dealers in designated milk, came into operation on 1st January, 1961, and greatly simplify the administrative work involved. They introduce three important changes, namely:- (1) Dealer's licences no longer restrict sales of designated milk to the area of the licensing authority; supplementary licences are therefore discontinued. (2) A Dealer's (Pre-packed Milk) Licence is introduced, authorising in one licence the use of any or all of the special designations in relation to such milk obtained and sold pre-packed. (3) Dealer's licences issued on or after 1st January, 1961, will be valid for five years and will be renewable for subsequent quinquenial periods.

Adulteration, etc.

No special action was necessary under Sections 47 and 48 of the Food & Drugs Act, 1955, nor under the Public Health (Dried Milk) Regulations, 1923 to 1948, and the Public Health (Condensed Milk) Regulations, 1923 to 1948.

All articles submitted to the Public Analyst were examined for the presence of preservatives, in accordance with the Public Health (Preservatives, etc., in Food) Regulations, 1925 to 1940, but no infringements were reported.

Chemical and Bacteriological Examination of Food

Samples for chemical analysis and samples of milk and ice-cream for biological and bacteriological examination are sent to the Council's Analyst, Mr. D.D.Moir, M.Sc., F.R.I.C.

There are no premises in the Borough where ice-cream is manufactured for sale. A total of 124 confectioners, grocers, fruiterers, newsagents, etc., are registered for the retail sale of ice-cream which, in every instance, is obtained pre-packed from one or other of the large manufacturing and distributing firms. Hotels, catering establishments and cinemas are exempt from registration.

Fourteen samples of ice-cream (ten from registered retailers and four from other establishments in the Borough) were examined for bacterial quality by submission to the methylene-blue reduction test. All were placed in provisional Grade I, indicating that a satisfactory standard of cleanliness had been observed in manufacture, storage and handling.

Samples of dessicated coconut, collected from a local bakery and derived from a consignment believed to be infected with food poisoning organisms, were submitted for laboratory examination. The reports thereon did not indicate contamination with any organisms of the food poisoning group.

SECTION V

PREVALENCE OF, AND CONTROL OVER, INFECTIOUS AND OTHER DISEASES

Provision of Isolation Hospital Accommodation

The provision of hospital accommodation for the isolation and treatment of cases of infectious disease is the responsibility of the Regional Hospital Board. Patients from the Borough are admitted to the Godstone Infectious Diseases Hospital at Bletchingley, if the required accommodation and facilities are available; otherwise, they are sent to suitable hospitals in other parts of the Hospital Region. The disposal of notified cases to different hospitals during the year was as follows:-

Godstone Infectious Diseases Hospital, Bletchingley	17 cases
Queen Mary's Hospital for Children, Carshalton	3 "
Redhill County Hospital, Redhill	4 "
Thornton House, Redhill	4 "
Dorking General Hospital, Dorking	1 case

Uncomplicated cases of the commoner infections, such as measles, mumps and whooping cough, are not usually accepted, unless recommended by the Medical Officer of Health on the grounds that the patient cannot be satisfactorily isolated and treated at home; several such cases were admitted to hospital during the year.

Notifiable Infectious Diseases

The action taken on receipt of a notification that a person is suffering from an infectious disease is fully described in previous reports.

The exclusion from school of infected persons and contacts is carried out generally in accordance with the suggestions contained in the Memorandum issued jointly in 1956 by the Ministry of Education and the Ministry of Health.

Table V shows the numbers of cases of the various notifiable infectious diseases (other than tuberculosis) recorded in the area during the calendar year, classified according to the age of the patient, together with the numbers of cases removed to hospital and the total deaths from each disease. The prevalence of the various diseases is reviewed below.

Smallpox

No confirmed case of smallpox was reported in the Borough in 1960. A suspected case was examined at the request of the medical practitioner in attendance, but was found to be suffering from non-infective skin disease.

Scarlet Fever

Scarlet fever was less prevalent than usual and was generally mild in type. The reported cases were widely scattered in distribution and without any seasonal preference. In accordance with modern practice, home isolation was permitted and encouraged wherever arrangements for the purpose were reasonably satisfactory and no restrictions were imposed on immediate contacts, with the exception of those whose occupation might involve undue risk of spread of infection.

TABLE V

CASES OF INFECTIOUS DISEASE (OTHER THAN TUBERCULOSIS) NOTIFIED DURING THE YEAR, 1960

	Cases notified in age periods												Totals	Total cases removed to hospital	Total Deaths
	Under 1 year	1 to 2	2 to 3	3 to 4	4 to 5	5 to 10	10 to 15	15 to 20	20 to 35	35 to 45	45 to 65	65 and over			
Scarlet Fever	-	-	-	2	1	15	5	1	-	1	-	-	25	8	-
Whooping Cough	5	8	14	6	6	52	13	2	-	2	1	-	109	2	-
Measles	1	1	2	2	-	3	3	1	1	-	-	-	14	-	-
Dysentery	3	3	-	1	-	8	1	2	3	3	1	-	25	6	-
Pneumonia	-	-	-	2	1	4	3	-	5	3	8	9	35	5	22 *
Meningococcal infection	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	-
Food poisoning	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	1	-
Puerperal Pyrexia	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	4	1	-	-	5	5	-
Erysipelas	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	1	2	2	7	1	1
	10	12	16	13	8	82	25	7	14	11	12	12	222	29	23
Totals 1959	25	91	144	163	159	671	91	14	19	7	21	24	1429	43	21

* All forms

Diphtheria

For the ninth consecutive year no confirmed or suspected case of diphtheria was reported.

Whooping Cough

An outbreak of whooping cough involving a total of 109 cases began in the early part of the year, reached its peak about mid-summer and thereafter abruptly subsided. The incidence in age groups was generally in accord with the usual pattern, the rate of prevalence being highest amongst new entrants to infant schools. Multiple cases in the same families were relatively common. Roughly one-half of the children affected had completed a course of primary immunisation in infancy, but relatively few of these had had reinforcing injections. The clinical course of the disease in most cases was exceptionally mild, and particularly so in children who had been previously immunised.

Measles

There were relatively few cases of measles, most of which were reported in the second half of the year and from the Reigate district. None of the cases was so severely affected as to require admission to hospital.

Poliomyelitis

For the second consecutive year there was complete freedom from poliomyelitis. Three suspected cases were not confirmed after full investigation in hospital.

Dysentery

The twenty-five cases of bacilliary dysentery were all of the mild sonne type and in almost every case confirmed as such by laboratory investigation. Five cases occurred in a small outbreak at St. Anne's, Redhill, and the remainder were widely scattered and not apparently connected with each other, except in four instances where more than one case occurred in the same household. The latter, together with twenty-eight symptomless carriers of the organism, were discovered in routine investigation of contacts of the primary cases. The cases and contacts were all kept under observation until there was laboratory evidence of their freedom from infection.

Pneumonia

The rate of prevalence of pneumonia was much lower than usual. Most of the cases were notified in the first and last quarters of the year and, in eleven instances, the respiratory infection was stated to be secondary to influenza. Five cases were removed to hospital, either because of the severity of the disease or lack of suitable facilities for treatment at home. Most of the remainder were visited by Health Visitors, with a view to the supply of nursing or domestic assistance that might be necessary.

The numbers of deaths attributed to pneumonia did not exceed the average for the past ten years. Most of them occurred in the early months of the year, in several instances in association with influenza, and with heaviest incidence in the advanced age groups. Fourteen of the deaths took place in hospitals or other public institutions. The twenty-two deaths recorded under this heading include many due to non-notifiable forms of pneumonia, so that the rate of mortality is not truly represented by the ratio of deaths to notified cases.

Meningococcal Infection

There was one confirmed case of meningococcal infection (cerebro-spinal fever). The patient, a five-months-old infant, was treated in hospital and recovered satisfactorily. A suspected case was also admitted to hospital for investigation, which yielded negative results.

Food Poisoning

An elderly patient who was admitted to hospital with mild gastro-enteritis was later reported to be infected with food poisoning organisms (salmonella anatum). The long interval between the onset of symptoms and recognition of their cause precluded any fruitful investigation of possible sources of infection.

It was reported that two families had sudden illness, suggestive of bacterial food poisoning. Full investigation, including laboratory examination of specimens, yielded no confirmatory evidence that the illness in question was due to the consumption of infected food.

Puerperal Pyrexia

Five women were notified as having rise of temperature in the lying-in period. All were under treatment in hospital at the time of notification and recovered satisfactorily.

Erysipelas

There were seven notified cases of erysipelas, all but one of which recovered satisfactorily.

Other Diseases

Seventeen cases of acute gastro-enteritis, seven of suspected meningitis, three of acute tonsillitis and two of skin eruption, mainly affecting young children and believed to be due to specific infection, were removed to hospital for observation. The presence of an infecting agent was not confirmed by laboratory investigation, except in three cases of meningitis which were found to be of virus causation, and one of acute gastro-enteritis, which proved fatal and was due to virulent bacterial infection. Appropriate action was taken in relation to the home contacts of the latter.

Tuberculosis

Particulars of the new cases of tuberculosis which came to the knowledge of the Medical Officer of Health during the year are set out in Table VI, together with an analysis of the deaths in the area from this disease during the same period.

Twenty new cases of respiratory tuberculosis were notified in 1960, as compared with twenty-two in 1959, twenty in 1958 and an average of thirty-one per annum in the preceding ten years. The case rate per 1,000 of the population for this form of the disease was 0.39 which, with one exception, is the lowest yet experienced in the Borough. The relatively small number of cases amongst persons in the younger age groups may be largely due to the protective affect of B.C.G. vaccination and the other preventive measures adopted in relation to children and young persons.

There were two deaths from respiratory tuberculosis. This represents a mortality rate (adjusted) of 0.031 per 1,000 population, which is well below any previously recorded in the Borough and appreciably below the National rate of 0.068.

There were only two new cases of non-respiratory tuberculosis, representing a case rate of 0.03 per 1,000 of the population, which also creates a new low record for the Borough. No mortality was attributed to non-respiratory forms of tuberculosis.

In addition to the new cases, i.e. those notified for the first time, there were reports of 24 previously known cases of tuberculosis (23 respiratory and 1 non-respiratory in type) who had been notified elsewhere and had taken up residence in the Borough. The majority of these are under supervision of the Chest Physician for the area.

At the end of the year there were 332 known cases of tuberculosis in the Borough, including 309 (173 males and 136 females) in which the lungs were affected, and 23 (7 males and 16 females) with tuberculosis of other organs. In many of these the disease is quiescent or arrested, but all are regularly visited and supervised by the staff of the local Chest Clinic. The total number of cases represents a reduction of 37 on the corresponding figure for 1959.

The names of 83 cases were removed from the register of tuberculous persons - 26 on leaving the district, 10 on death and 47 on complete recovery from the disease.

No action was necessary under the Public Health (Prevention of Tuberculosis) Regulations, 1925 (relating to persons suffering from pulmonary tuberculosis and employed in the milk trade) nor under Section 127 of the Public Health Act, 1936 (relating to the compulsory removal to hospital of persons suffering from tuberculosis)

The voluntary Tuberculosis Care Committee, which works in close association with local Chest Clinics and Sanatoria, continued its activities on behalf of tuberculous persons and their dependents. The assistance granted during the year included the supply of extra nourishment, fuel, bedding, clothing, sick-room requisites, etc., and the payment of fares, pocket money and other incidental expenses which could not be met from official sources.

TABLE VI

New cases of Tuberculosis, and all Deaths from the Disease in the Area during 1960, classified according to Age, Sex and Type of Disease

Age Periods	Cases				Deaths			
	Respiratory		Non-Respiratory		Respiratory		Non-Respiratory	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
Under 1 year	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
1-5 years	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
5-15 years	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
15-25 years	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
25-35 years	1	1	-	1	-	-	-	-
35-45 years	1	2	-	-	-	-	-	-
45-55 years	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
55-65 years	5	2	-	-	-	1	-	-
65 and upwards	2	-	-	1	1	-	-	-
TOTALS	13	7	-	2	1	1	-	-
Totals 1959	12	10	-	3	2	-	-	-

VACCINATION AND IMMUNISATION

Vaccination against Small-pox

Vaccination against small-pox is not at present undertaken at the County Council's Clinics in the Borough. Particulars of notifications of vaccination performed by private medical practitioners during the year are as follows:-

	0 - 1 year	1 - 5 years	5 - 15 years	Over 15 years	Total
Primary Vaccination	496	59	44	24	623
Re-vaccination	-	8	38	209	255

The number of primary vaccinations, and particularly of infants under the age of one year, is much greater than usual. The latter represents an acceptance rate of 65.0 per cent of the infants in the age group.

A considerable number of the re-vaccinations were of persons who were required to produce certificates of recent vaccination to enable them to travel abroad. Such certificates must be authenticated by the Medical Officer of Health of the district in which the vaccination was performed.

Immunisation against Diphtheria

The numbers of children who completed a full course of immunisation during the year, either at the County Council's Clinics or under private arrangements, are as follows:-

Under 1 year	1 - 2 years	2 - 3 years	3 - 4 years	4 - 5 years	5 - 10 years	10 - 15 years	Total
551	105	20	6	4	22	1	709

In addition, reinforcing doses of diphtheria prophylactic were given to 638 persons, most of whom were school entrants who had completed a course of immunisation three or four years previously.

The foregoing figures represent a substantial advance on those for 1959 and 1958 when attention was concentrated primarily on the poliomyelitis vaccination programme. It is estimated that rather more than 70 per cent. of the infants born in 1960 were immunised against diphtheria, in most cases in combination with whooping cough vaccination. The use of combined vaccines for simultaneous protection against diphtheria, whooping cough and tetanus was suspended during the summer months in view of their possible role in provoking the onset of poliomyelitis.

Vaccination against Whooping Cough

The County Council's scheme for vaccination against whooping cough is directed mainly to infants under the age of one year, in whom the disease is most likely to be fatal or followed by serious complications. The numbers of children who completed a full course of immunisation during the year, either at the County Council's Clinics or under private arrangements, are as follows:-

Under 1 year	1 - 2 years	2 - 3 years	3 - 4 years	4 - 5 years	5 - 10 years	10 - 15 years	Total
554	99	15	5	1	10	1	685

Reinforcing injections of whooping cough vaccine were given to 144 children who had completed a course of primary immunisation four or five years previously.

As in the case of prophylaxis against small-pox and diphtheria, the acceptance rate for whooping cough vaccination was above that for the preceding two years. It is noted with satisfaction that whooping cough vaccination is becoming more readily accepted at an earlier age, when it is likely to be most effective. Although vaccination does not, in every case, afford absolute protection against the disease, it undoubtedly confers a high degree of immunity and greatly reduces the severity and duration of the illness in vaccinated children who are attacked.

Vaccination against Tetanus

Vaccination against Tetanus is available to children whose parents expressly wish them to be so protected. Tetanus vaccine may be given separately, but is often combined with the agents used for active immunisation against diphtheria and whooping cough, thus reducing the number of inoculations and affording simultaneous protection against all three diseases. The number of persons vaccinated against tetanus in 1959 were as follows:-

0 - 5 years	655
5 - 15 years	73
	728

Reinforcing injections were given to 126 children who had previously completed a course of immunisation.

Vaccination against Poliomyelitis

The groups eligible for vaccination against poliomyelitis in 1960 were persons between the ages of six months and forty years, together with certain priority groups, including expectant mothers, medical practitioners and their families, nurses, ambulance personnel and others exposed to special risk. Third injections were offered to those who had had their second injection not less than seven months previously.

The numbers vaccinated against poliomyelitis by their own doctors or at the County Council's Clinics during the year, are as follows:-

Children between the ages of 6 months and 15 years	889
Young persons between the ages of 15 and 25 years	193
Persons between the ages of 25 and 40 years	1,629
Other priority groups, e.g. expectant mothers, medical practitioners, hospital staff and families, and ambulance personnel	68
Third injections	4,229

Measles prophylaxis

Immune serum is available through the Public Health Department for the total or partial immunisation of susceptible measles contacts. Only two requests for serum were received during the year.

B.C.G. Vaccination against Tuberculosis

The arrangements for routine B.C.G. vaccination of thirteen-year-old pupils at County Council and independent schools continued during the year and were extended to include some older pupils and students at County Colleges and other establishments for further education. Subject to the consent of their parents, persons in these groups are skin tested to ascertain if they have already had a primary tuberculous infection, and those giving a negative result are offered B.C.G. vaccination. Testing was conducted at fourteen schools in the Borough during the year, with the following results:-

Number of pupils in age group	1168
Number consenting to treatment	831
Percentage consenting to treatment	71.1%
Number Mantoux tested	775
Number of negative reactors	730
Percentage giving negative reaction	94.1%
Number vaccinated	730
Percentage of negative reactors vaccinated	100%

Favourable features of the foregoing figures are substantial increases in the proportion of eligible pupils who consented to treatment and of those who did not react to the skin test, indicating the absence of previous infection. The percentage of negative reactors vaccinated is especially satisfactory.

While the primary purpose of the scheme is the ascertainment and vaccination of children who have not already had a primary infection, it is the usual practice to arrange, where possible, for x-ray examination of positive reactors to exclude the possibility of active infection. No unfavourable x-ray findings were reported during the year.

It was not found necessary in 1960 to conduct a special investigation at any school in the Borough consequent on the discovery of an infectious case of tuberculosis amongst pupils or teaching staff.

Protection against other diseases

Prophylactic inoculation against other infectious diseases, such as enteric fever, cholera, yellow fever, etc., is necessary in the case of persons proposing to visit foreign countries where these diseases are endemic, and is usually undertaken at specified centres. The International Certificate required in such cases must be authenticated by the Medical Officer of Health of the district in which the vaccination is performed.

Non-notifiable Infectious Diseases

Information relating to the prevalence of non-notifiable infectious and contagious diseases is necessarily incomplete, and is obtained mainly from reports of school absentees, the periodic statements of sickness claims submitted to the local office of the Ministry of Pensions and National Insurance in relation to insured persons and the Registrar's weekly returns of deaths. Cases also come to notice through enquiries by employers with regard to quarantine periods, requests for disinfection, casual communications by private medical practitioners and applications for domestic assistance under the Home Help Scheme. The occurrence of cases at the Day Nursery and in residential children's homes is also reported.

The information obtained from these various sources did not indicate excessive prevalence of non-notifiable infection in 1960. In the early part of the year there was an outbreak of influenza which was mild in type and associated with very low mortality. The local office of the Ministry of Pensions and National Insurance reported, at that time, that sickness claims had risen to 262 per cent. above the average, partly because of influenza, but mainly due to the prevalence of colds and non-specific respiratory ailments.

There were 115 reported cases of mumps, mainly affecting pupils attending the Merstham and Reigate groups of schools, and 44 cases of chicken-pox, which was widespread in distribution. The advice and assistance of the Public Health Department was frequently sought in connection with scattered cases of moderately severe vomiting and diarrhoea, which was believed to be of virus causation, and acute upper respiratory infection caused by the organisms of scarlet fever, but not subject to the official restrictions applicable to that disease.

Disinfection

There are facilities at the Disinfecting Station for the sterilisation of articles that have been exposed to infection and for the cleansing of verminous persons and their belongings. Provision has been made for the treatment by formalin vapour of books and other articles which are unsuitable for disinfection by super-heated steam. The work undertaken at the Disinfecting Station during the year is summarised in a later section of this report.

Uncleanliness

Pediculosis

The instances of verminous infestation reported during the year were confined to seven children who had lice or nits in their hair. Three were of such degree as to necessitate exclusion from school. Cleansing in each case was satisfactorily undertaken by the parents of the children concerned and it was not necessary, therefore, to resort to compulsory cleansing under the arrangements made for that purpose. Neither was it necessary to undertake the cleansing of any verminous adult at the Corporation's Disinfecting Station.

Scabies

The staff of the Public Health Department were not called upon to undertake the cleansing of any cases of scabies during the year. Members of a Youth Organisation in the Borough who became infected at a summer camp were satisfactorily treated under private arrangements and assistance was given in connection with the disinfection of the bedding and clothing of the persons affected.

BOROUGH OF REIGATE

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE CHIEF PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR FOR THE YEAR 1960

Public Health Department,
Caberfeigh,
24 Hatchlands Road,
Redhill, Surrey.

To the Chairman and Members of the Public Health Committee

Madam Chairman, Lady and Gentlemen,

I submit herewith my twenty-seventh Annual Report which relates to the work of the Public Health Inspectors during 1960.

It will be seen from the reports or comments made under the various headings that priority of attention was given to the following matters:-

(a) work in connection with the Council's five-year programme for the clearance of unfit houses; so far as the inspection and representation of houses is concerned the programme is nearing completion and few dwellings remain to be carried forward into the next phase, which will probably be connected with the re-development of two areas of Redhill;

(b) enquiries and applications relating to Standard Grants introduced in the House Purchase & Housing Act, 1959; it is still the experience that these grants have an appeal only to the owner/occupier - it is rare to get an enquiry or any show of interest from the owners of rented property;

(c) problems which arise from day-to-day as a result of official inspections, complaints or enquiries relating to food and drink in its many and varied forms, and food premises of equally varied degree.

A copy of the codes of practice issued by the Food Hygiene Advisory Council relating to hygiene in the retail meat trade and the hygienic transport and handling of meat was sent to all local meat traders, and this was followed up by visits to their premises by a member of our staff for discussion and verbal explanation of any difficulties that appeared to present themselves;

(d) the inspection of carcase meat, etc., produced as a result of slaughtering operations carried out at the Merstham slaughterhouse, occupied by the East Surrey Master Butchers' Association Ltd., and the preparation of a special report on the slaughterhouse facilities now available in the Borough and likely to be required in the future; there was also preliminary work in connection with new Regulations which came into force on 1st November, 1960, relating to the staining and/or sterilization of knacker meat;

(e) rodent control and the control of other animal and insect pests; "contract" work on behalf of farmers, etc., was extended, and the Public Health Committee decided that assistance in the destruction of wasps' nests should continue to be given to householders where particular difficulties were presented and when staff could be spared for this work;

(f) the additional control over conditions at caravan sites given by the Caravan Sites & Control of Development Act, 1960, which came into operation on 29th August, 1960.

For many years the duty of inspection of factories under Section 34 of the Factories Act, 1937, relating to means of escape in case of fire has been carried out on behalf of the Council by this Department, and all factories to which the Section applies were in possession of the necessary certificates. Legislation contained in the Factories Act, 1959, transferred this duty from District Councils to County Councils, and no inspections were made after 30th November, 1960.

An important alteration in the arrangements for the training of Pupil Public Health Inspectors has resulted in a new syllabus being published by the recently-appointed Public Health Inspectors Education Board. The new qualifying diploma which will replace the existing certificate of competency should enhance the status of the profession and assist recruitment into the service.

I am, Madam Chairman, Lady and Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

G. JANES

Chief Public Health Inspector

31st May, 1961

Infectious Disease, Disinfection and Disinfestation

During the year 108 visits of enquiry were made on behalf of the Medical Officer of Health in connection with cases of infectious disease and suspected food poisoning. The purpose of such an enquiry is to try and ascertain the cause or origin of the illness, to trace contacts or contaminated or infected food and, if possible, to assist in preventing the occurrence of further cases.

The disinfection or disinfestation of material which may have become infected or infested as a result of infectious illness or vermin infestation continued to be carried out at the Council's Disinfecting Station at the Disposal Works, Redhill. This was done either in the steam disinfecting apparatus or by chemical means in a compartment specially constructed for this purpose and which can be sealed and rendered air-tight. This work was also carried out on behalf of the neighbouring Rural District Councils of Dorking & Horley, and Godstone.

Detail of the work is given below and, unless otherwise indicated, relates to articles of bedding, clothing, furnishings, etc.:-

(1) Reigate Borough

	From Dwelling-houses	From Institutions, etc.
Infectious & Other Diseases	-	-
Vermin (Lice)	-	-
Miscellaneous	6	242
Rooms Disinfected	8	-
Rooms Disinfested	4	-

(2) Dorking & Horley R.D. -

Infectious & Other Diseases	54	-

(3) Godstone R.D. -

Infectious & Other Diseases	38	-

In addition, 7 library books were disinfected by formalin vapour and returned to the libraries concerned.

The infestation of dwelling-houses by vermin, such as bed-bugs and fleas, remained a rare occurrence. In 1960 one house was found to be slightly infested with fleas; it was successfully cleared by a single application of a liquid insecticide containing D.D.T. Requests were received for assistance in treating two premises, namely, a dwelling-house and a nursing home, which were found to be infested in varying degrees by cockroaches and other beetles; a liquid emulsion containing D.D.T. and pyrethrum is used in cases of this type, and has continued to prove an effective method of control. Infestations by flies in the roof spaces of two houses were also dealt with by spraying treatment. Other premises which were disinfested included:-

(a) Kitchens, etc., of St. Anne's Institution, Redhill, and St. Davids, Wray Park Road, Reigate (Surrey County Council), and premises occupied by the Redhill Group Hospital Management Committee, which were periodically treated for cockroaches under contract arrangements with those authorities;

(b) school canteen kitchens under the control of the County Education Authority, which were sprayed with a liquid insecticide during the fly-breeding season to prevent the contamination of food by flies.

Two houses, occupied by elderly persons living alone, were found to be in an insanitary condition; assistance was given in cleansing and disinfection, followed by the removal of soiled material for destruction.

Slaughtering and Meat Inspection

This subject is governed by the following legislation -

(a) Slaughter of Animals Act, 1958.
(b) Slaughter of Animals (Prevention of Cruelty) Regulations, 1958.
(c) Food & Drugs Act, 1955, Sections 62 to 79 - Slaughterhouses and Knackers' Yards.
(d) Slaughterhouses Act, 1958.
(e) Slaughterhouses (Hygiene) Regulations, 1958.
(f) Public Health (Meat) Regulations, 1924/52.
(g) Meat (Staining & Sterilization) Regulations, 1960.

Nine applications by slaughtermen for the renewal of their licences were granted at the beginning of the year. No infringement of the Act was noted during 1960.

The slaughtering of all food animals continued to be carried out at the Merstham slaughterhouse occupied by the East Surrey Master Butchers' Association Ltd., the only slaughterhouse now licensed in the Borough. The renewal of this licence came up for review in July, 1960; the premises had been well maintained apart from minor items of repair and re-decoration, which were drawn to the attention of the licensees for early action. In view of the new Regulations relating to hygienic construction and the humane handling and slaughter of animals, to come into force on a date to be appointed by the Minister, the licence was renewed for a limited period so that the position could be reviewed during 1961. In the meantime, the Association could formulate proposals on the alterations required to comply with the new standards. Discussions took place on this, but up to the end of the year the licensees were experiencing difficulty in obtaining control of a small area of land adjacent to the slaughterhouse which would have simplified the reconstruction and reorganisation works required. Ways and means were therefore being sought to achieve the maximum improvement within the existing curtilage of the premises.

In connection with this problem, an Order & Direction made early in 1959 under the Slaughterhouses Act, 1958, indicated that all local authorities should submit to the Minister of Agriculture, Fisheries & Food within twelve months from the 2nd November, 1959, a special Slaughterhouses Report. Each local authority was required to review and report upon existing and probable future requirements of their districts for slaughterhouse facilities, and upon the facilities which were, or were likely to become, available to meet these requirements. Work begun on this report in 1959 was continued early in the year, consultations took place with organisations representing the wholesale and retail meat trade, local auctioneers and farmers, and the local branch of the National Farmer's Union; the report was submitted to the Council in March. The 1st April, 1961, was recommended as the date to be appointed for the coming into operation of the Regulations, but in view of the difficulties already mentioned this was later altered to 1st April,1962.

Once again 100% inspection of carcases was achieved at the Merstham slaughterhouse; no meat leaves there until it has been inspected and passed as fit for human consumption. The results of meat inspection are given in the accompanying Tables on pages 32 and 33. The number of animals slaughtered was slightly lower than in 1959; the incidence of disease found on post-mortem inspection was also lower - tuberculosis in cattle, often found in some part of the carcase a few years ago, is now rare; in 1960 it was found, localised, in only one carcase. The number of cattle found to be affected with cysticercus bovis, a condition which may lead to the development of tapeworm in anyone eating the meat, was double that in the previous year; the routine detailed and thorough examination of beef carcases which is necessary to reveal this condition must, therefore, be continued with vigilance.

In calculating the percentages of animals found on inspection to be affected by disease other than tuberculosis or cysticercosis, figures relating to cattle and sheep affected with liver fluke, and to pigs suffering from pneumonia or lung congestion, are disregarded as these are common conditions which are not of value for comparative statistical purposes.

MEAT INSPECTION

CARCASES AND OFFAL INSPECTED AND CONDEMNED WHOLE OR IN PART

	Cattle excluding Bulls and Cows	Bulls	Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs
NUMBER KILLED	628	3	43	106	308	2,968
NUMBER INSPECTED	628	3	43	106	308	2,968
ALL DISEASES EXCEPT TUBERCULOSIS AND CYSTICERCI						
Whole carcases condemned	-	-	-	1	-	5
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	185	-	25	1	15	833
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than tuberculosis and cysticerci	29.5%	-	58.1%	1.9%	4.9%	28.2%
	♂ (14.3)	-	♂ (20.9)	-	♂ (2.9)	¤ (7.4)
TUBERCULOSIS ONLY						
Whole carcases condemned	-	-	-	-	-	-
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	1	-	-	-	-	27
Percentage of the number inspected affected with tuberculosis	.16	-	-	-	-	.91
CYSTICERCOSIS						
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	20	-	-	-	-	-
Carcases submitted to treatment by refrigeration	10	-	-	-	-	-
Generalised and totally condemned	-	-	-	-	-	-

♂ Percentage excluding Distomatosis

¤ Percentage excluding Pneumonia and Congestion of Lungs.

The total weight of carcases and offals condemned was 2 tons, 15 cwts.

There were no horses slaughtered for human consumption during the period.

MEAT INSPECTION - REASONS FOR CONDEMNATION

DESCRIPTION	Number Slaughtered	Tuberculosis		Other Conditions													TOTAL
		Generalised	Localised	Fever	Dropsy and/or Emaciation also Immaturity	Congestion	Injury	Septicaemia	Nephritis	Distomatosis & Cirrhosis	Parasitic	Abscesses	Pleurisy and Peritonitis	Pneumonia	Cavernous Angioma	Miscellaneous	
BOVINES (excluding calves)	674																
Whole Carcases and Offal		-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Part Carcase		-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	1
Heads and Tongues		-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	16	1	-	-	-	3	20
Lungs		-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	62	3	-	1	69
Livers and Part Livers		-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	123	-	24	12	-	2	1	162
Mesentery and Intestines		-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
CALVES	106																
Whole Carcases and Offal		-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	1
Lungs		-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	1
Livers		-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
SHEEP -	308																
Whole Carcases and Offal		-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Part Carcases		-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Lungs		-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	2	-	-	-	3
Livers		-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	6	3	1	2	-	-	-	12
PIGS -	2,968																
Whole Carcases and Offal		-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	4	-	-	-	-	5
Part Carcases		-	-	-	1	-	3	-	1	-	-	1	1	-	-	-	7
Heads and Tongues		-	25	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	26
Lungs		-	1	-	-	248	-	-	-	-	-	-	82	387	-	-	718
Livers		-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	78	1	54	-	-	3	136
Mesentery and Intestines		-	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	3
TOTALS	4,056	-	29	-	1	248	3	1	1	129	99	36	216	391	2	8	1,164

The licensed knacker's yard at Three Arch Road, Redhill, continued in operation throughout the year; it was mainly used for the cutting up of carcases of animals which had died or had been slaughtered on the owners' premises; few animals were slaughtered at the knacker's yard.

Regular inspection revealed that a satisfactory standard of hygiene was being maintained. At the end of 1959 the occupier had been advised that the premises fell short of standards in the new Regulations dealing with humane slaughter, with respect to the provision of separate accommodation for the slaughter of horses. Although horses are very rarely slaughtered here he agreed to carry out the necessary alterations and a separate bay for horse slaughter was provided, adjacent to the slaughterhall. Other works carried out included the provision of improved sanitary accommodation and ablution facilities. Renewal of the annual licence was deferred at the end of the year for more detailed information on a proposed revision of boundaries of the yard and a change in use of a building formerly included in the licence.

New Regulations - The Meat (Staining & Sterilization) Regulations, 1960 - came into force in November, requiring all butchers' and imported meat which is unfit for human consumption to be sterilised, and all knacker meat to be stained or sterilised. Whilst the Regulations did not go so far as one would have hoped, they were a useful step forward in the effective control of diseased butchers' and knacker meat generally. The only firms directly concerned locally, the occupiers of the Merstham slaughterhouse and the knacker's yard, were advised of the new requirements, and the arrangements they had made to comply therewith were subsequently approved as satisfactory.

Food and Drugs Act, 1955 - Sections 8 & 9 - Food Unfit for Human Consumption

The inspection of foodstuffs generally continued to be carried out during the routine inspection of food premises, and also at the request of traders when fitness was a matter of doubt. In the latter category calls on the Inspectors' time were about the same as in 1959, and there were no incidents worthy of special mention.

The year saw an increase in the opening of new self-service shops and the changeover of existing ones to this type of trading in respect of groceries generally, traditional over-the-counter trading being usually retained for cooked meats and dairy produce. These shops generally endeavour to achieve a high standard of hygiene and a good standard of protection against contamination by overmuch "customer contact" by sound pre-packing methods. The dangers from overlong storage and consequent staleness and deterioration are, of course, aggravated in these businesses unless a rigorous system of turnover is maintained, with coding of certain products where necessary. Mention has been made in previous Reports on the need for an extension of adequate coding methods to keep pace with the modern pre-packaging of such a wide variety of foodstuffs; it is a pity that this deficiency is still found so often in practice. It is nevertheless pleasing to report that in only two of the cases, enumerated below of unsound foodstuffs being sold, was the cause due to unsatisfactory turnover or coding. It may be that keener competition is assisting now in achieving the ends of adequate supervision and better food hygiene within the trade.

Complaints made to the Department by the public of food considered to be of unsatisfactory quality, or found to contain foreign material, were slightly lower in number than in the previous year, sixteen having been received. All were fully investigated, but in only one case - a cord in a piece of fruit cake - was it deemed desirable to report the matter to the Public Health Committee, when it was decided that a warning was appropriate, having regard to the good record of the manufacturer and the precautions against contamination normally instituted by him as a matter of routine. Results on three of the cases were inconclusive, two related to apparent unsatisfactory turnover and the vendors were warned about this, seven related to apparently dirty containers (bottles), and the remaining four were of foreign material in the food. Appropriate action was taken with the vendor or manufacturer in each case.

During 1960 the following foodstuffs were found to be unfit for human consumption, and were surrendered to the Inspectors for disposal at the Council's Refuse Disposal Works:-

Meat and offal	4½ cwts.
Meat - canned	4 cwts.
Ham - canned	181 lbs.
Sausages	8 lbs.
Fish	3½ cwts.
Chicken	3
Sugar and Preserves	11 lbs.
Dried fruit	52 lbs.
Tinned fish	10 tins
" fruit	168 tins
" fruit juice	5 tins
" milk	9 tins
" soup	1 tin
" vegetables	58 tins and jars
Tinned and Packet food (miscellaneous)	68 tins and packets

This work involved 76 visits by the Inspectors.

Food and Drugs Act, 1955 - Sections 13 to 21 - Hygiene in connection with the sale of Food, etc. to the Public
Food Hygiene Regulations, 1955/7
Food Hygiene (General) Regulations, 1960

The Food Hygiene Regulations, 1955 to 1957, were replaced on 1st October by new Regulations which consolidated and amended the earlier provisions. The scope of the Regulations was extended thereby to cover home-going ships and moored vessels, the cleaning of food utensils and equipment now comes within the definition of handling of food, and amongst other matters dealt with the responsibility for compliance with the Regulations is more clearly laid down. Generally speaking such responsibility is laid fairly and squarely on the shoulders of the person carrying on the food business.

In the main, food premises and their equipment are up to standard, but the problem still remains - by constant coercion and education - to strive for a like improvement in the day-to-day attitude of food handlers. The extension of pre-packaging and deep freezing of foods also tends to a lazy attitude towards food hygiene, against which one must be constantly on the alert, particularly with regard to satisfactory hygienic storage and proper rotation of stocks.

Primary inspections made at food premises were as follows:-

Catering Establishments	64
Bakehouses	18
Grocers	45
Butchers	29
Fruiterers & Greengrocers	18
Fishmongers	20
Confectioners	27
Vehicles and Stalls	19

Routine follow-up inspections under the Regulations involved 202 visits.

The Register of food premises now includes the following:-

Grocers, etc.	102
Butchers, etc.	36
Fruiterers and Greengrocers	38
Fishmongers and Fish-fryers	20
Confectioners (including 14 bakehouses)	108
Catering Establishments (including 70 Public Houses and 26 School canteen-kitchens)	180
Food Manufactories	5

Four hundred and seventy visits of inspection were made to the above-named food premises.

Premises which are required to be registered under Section 16 are shown below in detail as being on the register at the end of 1960.

(a) Manufacture and sale of preserved food, etc.:

Type of Premises	No.	No. of Inspections
Butchers, etc.	28	29
Fish-fryers	11	18
Bakers (manufacture of meat pies) ...	1	2
Total	40	49

(b) Storage and sale of ice-cream:

Confectioners, etc.	82	27
Grocers, etc.	35	22
Fruiterers, etc.	4	4
Newsagents, etc.	3	3
Total	124	56

In addition to the above-named premises, there are 13 catering establishments where ice-cream is sold for consumption off the premises which are exempt from registration under existing law.

The arrangement was continued with the Borough Surveyor whereby any plans of shops or food premises generally, submitted for byelaw approval, were examined in this Department and comment made on any aspect of environmental hygiene involved. In general, deficiencies which arose related to the provision of adequate light and ventilation, suitable sanitary accommodation and proper toilet facilities; clarification was often sought on proposals for interior finishes. Co-operation by architects and builders has been good.

Food and Drugs Act, 1955 - Sections 89 to 99 - Sampling and Analysis

One hundred and twenty samples purchased by the sampling officers were submitted for analysis by the Public Analyst. They covered a wide range of commodities and in only two cases were adverse reports made, these relating to a sample of malt vinegar and one of ammoniated tincture of quinine. In the case of the vinegar added salt had not been declared on the label; investigations revealed that the bottling firm in question were not aware of its presence, and they took immediate steps to amend their labelling. The ammoniated tincture of quinine was found to be deficient in ammonia, undoubtedly due to overlong storage; the chemists in question withdrew and destroyed remaining stocks of the drug and undertook to ensure more rigorous control in the future.

Merchandise Marks Act, 1926 and Orders made thereunder

These Orders relate to the following imported foodstuffs:

Fresh apples; currants, sultanas and raisins; eggs (in shell); dried eggs; oat products; raw tomatoes; bacon and ham; dead poultry; meat; margarine; malt products; frozen or chilled salmon and sea trout; butter; honey.

They provide that on sale the goods shall bear an indication of the country of origin, the object being to give the purchasing public the opportunity of choosing between goods of Home, Empire or Foreign origin. Twenty-seven visits of inspection were made and food traders were found, in the main, to be complying in a reasonable manner. Infringements noted related to the marking of imported meat, apples and tomatoes, and in these cases verbal requests by the Inspectors secured compliance at the time. During certain periods of the year it must be obvious to discerning purchasers' that certain foodstuffs are not home grown - i.e. apples and tomatoes - and provided there is no prejudice in the price charged, it seems unreasonable to take official action at such times. However, as infringements are invariably due to omission to label satisfactorily, verbal action upon inspection usually meets the case.

FOOD AND DRUGS ACT, 1955 - SAMPLING

(Public Analyst: D. D. Moir Esq., M.Sc., F.R.I.C.)

FOODSTUFFS	SAMPLES TAKEN				Total	Genuine	Adversely Reported upon
	First Quarter	Second Quarter	Third Quarter	Fourth Quarter			
Milk	6	5	4	7	22	22	-
Ice-cream	-	1	-	-	1	1	-
Cream	1	-	-	1	2	2	-
Butter, Margarine	1	1	-	-	2	2	-
Cheese	-	-	-	1	1	1	-
Cooking fats	3	-	-	1	4	4	-
Sausages - Pork	2	1	-	3	6	6	-
Sausages - Beef	2	-	-	1	3	3	-
Meat Pies	-	-	-	2	2	2	-
Meat & Fish Products	-	1	3	2	6	6	-
Rice	1	-	-	-	1	1	-
Table Jellies, Blancmanges	2	1	-	-	3	3	-
Dried Fruit	-	-	-	4	4	4	-
Jams, Honey, etc.	1	-	1	-	2	2	-
Sauces & Pickles	-	11	-	8	19	19	-
Tea	-	-	-	1	1	1	-
Soft Drinks	7	-	-	1	8	8	-
Flavourings & Colours	-	-	-	3	3	3	-
Condiments	-	2	2	-	4	3	1
Mixed Herbs	-	-	-	1	1	1	-
Foods, Miscellaneous	1	1	-	5	7	7	-
Beer	-	-	-	3	3	3	-
Whisky	-	-	-	1	1	1	-
Gin	-	-	-	1	1	1	-
Drugs, various	4	3	1	5	13	12	1
TOTALS	31	27	11	51	120	118	2

Milk and Dairies General Regulations, 1959

The entries in the Registers required to be kept in accordance with the Regulations are summarised as follows:-

Distributors:

(a)	With 3 dairies in the Borough	2
(b)	With dairies outside the Borough	5
(c)	With premises in the Borough ... ... (bottled milk sold in general shops)	22

Of the three dairies, two were used only for the cold storage and distribution of bottled milk. The third is in premises equipped with a high-temperature short-time pasteurising apparatus and other modern fittings. Frequent inspections of these dairies were made during the year, with special attention to the last mentioned one; they were maintained in a satisfactory condition throughout the period. As has applied for several years now all milk sold in the Borough must be heat-treated, with the exception of farm-bottled tuberculin-tested milk. Frequent samples of the various grades were taken on a regular sampling basis, and results were without exception satisfactory.

A detailed report on the samples of milk taken in 1960 from producers and distributors, and submitted for bacteriological examination, is given in the report of the Medical Officer of Health.

Hairdressers' and Barbers' Establishments

The premises used for the purpose of carrying on the business of hairdresser or barber in the Borough are subject to bye-laws made in 1954, under Section 135 of the Surrey County Council Act, 1936. These bye-laws require the persons carrying on the business to maintain cleanliness of the premises and of the instruments, towels, equipment and materials used therein. During 1960 no serious infringement of the bye-laws was noted. At the end of the year, the register of premises contained particulars of 18 men's and 29 women's establishments.

Factories Act, 1937, 1948 and 1959

The Table on page 39 shows in detail the various trades in the Borough that come within the scope of the Acts. During the year 142 inspections were made. The Register of factories has been further brought up-to-date and now contains 230 entries; in 15 cases defects relating particularly to sanitary accommodation and general cleanliness were discovered; defects in 13 factories were remedied. H.M. Inspector of Factories did not draw attention during the year to any defects which came within the sections of the Factories Act enforceable by the Local Authority.

During the earlier part of the year the list of factories, to which certificates as to means of escape in case of fire had been issued, was fully reviewed and visits were made to any other factories which it was thought might now be subject to these provisions. As a result eight factories were examined and certificates issued, after the completion of minor alterations considered necessary in all of them. Consultation took place with a Fire Prevention Officer of the Surrey Fire Brigade during these examinations, as has always been the case. Following this all known factories, to which these provisions might apply, had been dealt with.

The Factories Act, 1959, provided for the transfer of these powers relating to means of escape in case of fire from District Councils to the Fire Authority, in this case the Surrey County Council. The question of delegation back was considered, but not adopted and, in consequence, the Surrey Fire Brigade took over these duties in December. Facilities were made available for their officers to examine all plans of new factories or factory extensions in this connection, as had always been done in the Department in the past.

Factories Act, 1937 - List of Factories on Register at end of 1960

	Mechanical Power	No Mechanical Power
Agricultural Engineers	2	-
Art Leather Works	1	-
Bakers	14	-
Basket Work	1	-
Book Binder	1	-
Boot Makers and Repairers	4	-
Brick Makers, etc.	2	-
Builders and Contractors	7	5
Cabinet Makers and Upholsterers	6	-
Cork Disc and Insulation Manufacturers	1	-
Corn and Seed Merchants	3	-
Dairy (Milk Processing)	1	-
Dressmakers and Milliners	2	3
Dry Cleaners	3	-
Engineers Automobile	22	-
Engineers Electrical	3	2
Engineers Light	34	1
Essence Makers	1	-
Food Manufacturers	4	-
Foundries	2	-
Fullers Earth Works	1	-
Gas Holder Stations	1	-
Glass Cutting and Paint Packing	1	-
Hardware Assembly	1	-
Hearthstone Works	1	-
Hide Tanning	1	-
Knacker's Yard	-	1
Laundries	4	-
Log Sawing	1	-
Marquee and Tarpaulin Repairers	1	-
Mattress Manufacturer	1	-
Mineral Water Manufacturer	1	-
Monumental Masons and Undertakers	2	-
Motor Body Repairs	7	-
Motor Cycle and Cycle Repairs	2	3
Newspaper Fudging	3	-
Photographic Works, etc.	3	-
Plastics	2	-
Precast Concrete Manufacturers	1	-
Printers	9	-
Public Works Contractor	1	-
Radio Repairs	-	1
Rust Proofing	1	-
Sanitary Engineers	2	2
Scale Repairers	2	-
Sewing Machine Repairs	2	-
Shoeing and General Smiths	-	2
Shop Fitters	1	-
Soldering Outfit Assembly	-	1
Steel Wool Manufacturer	1	-
Suitcase Manufacturer	1	-
Tailors	2	1
Thermometer Manufacturer	1	-
Timber Merchants	3	-
Tyre Repairs	1	-
Watchmakers	2	1
Wax Refining Works	1	-
Building Sites and Works of Engineering Construction	29	-
TOTALS	207	23

Rag Flock and Other Filling Materials Act, 1951

There is only one factory which is subject to the provisions of this Act - one in which spring mattresses are manufactured. This is registered in accordance with Section 2. No samples of rag flock or other fillings were taken during 1960.

Housing Act, 1957
Housing Repairs & Rents Act, 1954 and Rent Act, 1957
Housing Subsidies Act, 1956
Slum Clearance (Compensation) Act, 1956

Work in connection with the inspection of unfit houses included in the Council's five-year programme was stepped up during 1960; 270 houses were inspected for all purposes, 65 were reported to the Council as unfit for human habitation and 53 houses were demolished as a result of earlier action. Five clearance areas, involving forty houses, were represented to the Council, and four houses in another small area were certified as unfit by the Medical Officer of Health, as they were already in the ownership of the Council. Individual action was taken with respect to 21 dwellings, 18 for demolition and 3 for closing.

Prior to the rehousing of families, inspections continued to be made with respect to the possible problem of vermin (bed-bug or flea) infestation, but, as in the preceding two years, no case arose requiring treatment. Such infestations are now very rarely encountered.

The number of applications for certificates of disrepair under the Rent Act, 1957, again fell during 1960, when four of these applications were received, as compared with ten in 1959. In three of the cases the owners concerned gave undertakings to have the necessary works carried out, and in the remaining case a certificate of disrepair was issued.

Housing (Financial Provisions) Act, 1958
House Purchase & Housing Act, 1959

Throughout the year the Inspectors continued to supervise work in connection with standard grants and 24 applications were dealt with, 23 being approved. Works of improvement were completed at 22 houses and in consequence the following improvements were achieved:- 19 baths in separate bathrooms, 19 washhand basins, 20 hot water supplies, improved watercloset accommodation in 3 cases, and 10 satisfactory food stores installed. Two hundred and fifty-eight visits of inspections were made in connection with this work generally. Despite every opportunity being taken to draw the attention of owners, estate agents and builders to the provisions of these grants for improving tenanted houses, little interest has been aroused and none of the applications in 1960 related to this type of accommodation. This reaction is not purely local and it is unfortunate to say the least as this simplified grant could be the means of extending the life of many houses, otherwise sub-standard and a national problem.

Liaison continued to be exercised with the Borough Surveyor in proposals dealing with discretionary grant applications, and 73 such cases were referred to this Department for observations during the year. As a result of this close liaison and of past experience in this matter a useful code of standards has been reached covering such matters as general repair; measures against rising dampness; interior finishes to existing kitchens; new extensions and solid floors; safeguards on combined water services; and exterior paving.

Diseases of Animals (Waste Food) Order, 1957

This Order deals with the inspection and licensing of boiling-plants used by collectors of waste food for animal feeding. Such waste food may spread foot-and-mouth and other animal diseases if not properly boiled for at least one hour. No new applications were received in this connection during 1960, and two operators were found to have given up waste food boiling. Inspections were continued at the premises already licensed, and it was found that the requirements of the Order were being satisfactorily observed.

Complaints

The following is a summary of the complaints received during the year:-

Insanitary condition of premises	44
Defective dustbin	1
House drainage	19
Cesspools overflowing	2
Non-removal of house refuse	4
Rats or Mice	409
Other Vermin (Foxes, Badgers, etc.)	2
Other insect pests	9
Wasps' nests	279
Unsound food (sold)	13
Keeping of animals, etc.	1
Smoke nuisance	2
Miscellaneous	54

Notices Issued and Action Taken

The following Table is a statement of the notices dealt with during the year:-

Preliminary -

Outstanding on 1st January, 1960	111
Issued during year	150
Complied with during year	152
Statutory action necessary	-
Outstanding on 31st December, 1960	109

Statutory -

Outstanding on 1st January, 1960	-
Issued during year	-
Complied with during year	-
Outstanding on 31st December, 1960	-

Fairground Sanitation

In consequence of restrictions on the use of land at Reigate Heath and Earlswood Common there were fewer fairs and circuses operating for short periods in the Borough during 1960. The provision of temporary sanitary accommodation and an emptying and cleansing service continued to be provided by the Borough Surveyor on a daily charge basis and, in consequence of this and the close supervision which is maintained, standards continued to be good. In consequence, in one case only - that of a fair on private land - was it necessary to call for improvements in the sanitary arrangements.

Heating Appliances (Fire Guards) Act, 1952, and Regulations, 1953

This legislation deals with safety guards for electric, gas and oil space-heating appliances and manufacturers have long since adopted a standard in their guards, which invariably complies with the regulations. With the passage of time the second-hand heater offered for sale, which did not comply, has virtually disappeared and it is now becoming increasingly rare to find a contravention. None was found on inspections carried out during the year.

Nuisances Abated, Defects Remedied, etc.

The following is a summary of the work carried out during the year, both voluntarily and in consequence of notices in respect of dwelling-houses, food premises, factories, and other business premises.

Dwelling-houses

Roofs repaired	9
Eaves-gutters and stack-pipes repaired	15
Chimney-stacks rebuilt or repaired	9
Pointing or otherwise weatherproofing of brickwork (houses)	11
Other causes of dampness remedied	3
External paintwork renewed	1
Drains examined or tested (primary inspections only)	149
Drainage systems repaired, extended or relaid	33
Sink gulley dishings renewed or repaired	2
Blocked drains cleared	25
Soil or ventilation pipes installed or renewed	13
New W.Cs. installed	22
W.C. apparatus renewed or repaired	6
Sewage treatment plants or cesspools repaired	5
Cesspools abolished, houses connected to sewer	2
Rooms cleansed or redecorated	3
Plaster of walls and/or ceilings repaired	17
Floors, windows and doors repaired or renewed	15
Food stores provided	17
Washhand basins renewed or installed	33
Waste pipes repaired or renewed	6
Hot water supply installed	27
Baths installed	29
Dustbins renewed	1
Accumulations removed	2
Other nuisances abated	13

Food Premises

Sanitary accommodation improved	6
Rooms cleansed and/or redecorated	10
Plaster of walls and/or ceilings repaired	8
Floors repaired or renewed	11
Preparation tables repaired or renewed	1
Food stores provided	2
Washhand basins installed	4
Ablution facilities otherwise improved	2
Sinks renewed or installed	3
Constant hot water supply installed	6
Accumulations removed	3
Dustbins renewed	1
Other nuisances abated	20

Factories

Drainage systems improved	1
Drainage to floors improved	1
Sanitary accommodation improved	4
Rooms cleansed	5
Miscellaneous	8

Other Business Premises

New W.Cs. provided	2
Blocked drains cleared	3
Drainage system improved or repaired	8
Other nuisances abated	5

Prevention of Damage by Pests Act, 1949 - Rodent Control

The results of the year's work under this heading are shown in the tabulated statement given below.

		Type of Property				
		Local Authority	≠ Dwelling Houses	Agricultural	All other (including Business & Industrial)	Total
I.	Total No. of properties in Local Authority's district	28	15,690	50	2,806	18,574
II.	No. of properties inspected during 1960 as a result of:-					
	(a) Notification	6	325	6	72	409
	(b) Survey	12	167	25	16	220
	(c) Otherwise (e.g. when visited primarily for another purpose)	-	256	6	231	493
III.	Total inspections, including re-inspections	78	1,943	97	651	2,769
IV.	No. of properties inspected (under II) found to be infested by:-					
	(a) Rats	15	237	15	54	321
	(b) Mice	-	60	-	29	89
V.	No. of infested properties (under IV) treated by Local Authority	15	297	15	83	410
VI.	No. of "block control" schemes carried out.	-	41	3	4	48

≠ Council houses are included under dwelling-houses

There was an increase in infestations dealt with compared with 1959, the major rise being in residential property. It did not relfect an increase in the rodent population throughout the Borough, but was rather due to ready and early notification; rat infestations were mainly light and more quickly brought under control in consequence. There is little doubt that a marked increase in co-operation has resulted from the decision in 1959 to stop making a charge for this service in dwelling-houses. It is interesting to note that a sharp rise in mice infestations dealt with was largely due to cases of field mice in and around new houses, accounted for no doubt by the predominantly wet weather.

The arrangements made in 1959, for dealing with rodent control on agricultural land formerly undertaken by the Ministry, continued to operate satisfactorily. Revised arrangements for regular inspection and treatment on a quarterly charge basis were continued in five cases and one additional manufacturing firm was taken into the scheme during the year. Charges at business premises, where the services of the Pests Officers were sought, continued unaltered and the occupier was expected to meet the cost of the treatment on a basis of 10/-d. an hour, with a minimum charge of 15/-d.

Routine treatment of the sewerage system of the Borough was carried out during the year, when results of tests made and poisoning carried out were highly satisfactory. These again revealed that rat infestation in the sewers had been virtually eliminated. Of 430 manholes tested only four were found to give evidence of a local infestation, in each case cleared by systematic poisoning. The Pests Officers continued to maintain regular and effective control at the Council's Refuse and Sewage Disposal Works, and of the banks of the stream which flows through Redhill and Earlswood.

The control work already detailed was exclusive of that carried out under contract arrangements with:

(a) the Surrey County Council at all their premises in this Borough; these include St. Anne's, at Redhill, and its ancillary homes, 32 schools and 13 school kitchens, day nursery, clinics, fire brigade premises, etc.;

(b) the Group Hospital Management Committee at the Redhill County Hospital.

Apart from this rodent control work, the Pests Officers were engaged at Corporation property in dealing with other pests, such as rabbits, foxes, badgers, moles, etc. Two hundred and seventy-nine wasps' nests were destroyed during the summer period, considerably less than the "peak" total of the previous year, the reduction being partially accounted for by assistance being dependant on availability of staff for this work and being limited in the main to the treatment of difficult nests. Sustained action over a long period in the trapping of pigeons in the centre of Redhill has resulted in the nuisance caused by nesting on certain buildings being brought to a minimal level. The position is being watched, however, and the trap continues to be maintained.